

STATE OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 19-183

WHEREAS, in 2008, Jeffrey Epstein pled guilty to procuring a person under 18 for prostitution and felony solicitation of prostitution in Palm Beach County, following state and federal investigations, and was later placed on work release; and

WHEREAS, the State Attorney Office for Palm Beach County handled the case related to the state investigation concerning Jeffrey Epstein; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff for Palm Beach County oversaw the work release of Jeffrey Epstein; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff for Palm Beach County has initiated a criminal investigation concerning Jeffrey Epstein and has requested of me that the Florida Department of Law Enforcement now assume that investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Law Enforcement may initiate a preliminary inquiry beyond the work release of Jeffrey Epstein and into other irregularities surrounding the prior state investigation and the ultimate plea agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, has agreed to accept an executive assignment for any proceedings that arise from the Department of Law Enforcement investigation and inquiry in this matter; and

WHEREAS, for good and sufficient reason, the Governor has determined it is in the best interests of the State of Florida and of the ends of justice that the Honorable BRUCE H.

COLTON discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, pursuant to section 27.14, Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of Florida, in obedience to my solemn constitutional duty to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed,” and pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, issue the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

The Honorable BRUCE H. COLTON, State Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, referred to as the “Assigned State Attorney,” is assigned to discharge the duties of the Honorable DAVID ARONBERG, State Attorney for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, as they relate to the investigation, prosecution, and all matters related to allegations related to Jeffrey Epstein and his assigned work release program and other irregularities.

Section 2.

The Assigned State Attorney or one or more Assistant State Attorneys and Investigators, who have been designated by the Assigned State Attorney, shall proceed immediately to the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida, and are vested with the authority to perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 3.

All residents of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit are requested, and all public officials are directed, to cooperate and render whatever assistance is necessary to the Assigned State Attorney, so that justice may be served.

Section 4.

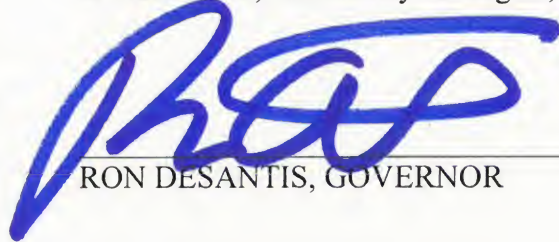
The period of this Executive Assignment shall be for one (1) year, to and including August 6, 2020.

Section 5.

The Assigned State Attorney shall notify the Governor on or before July 6, 2020, if additional time is required.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 6th day of August, 2019.


RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA